

# NEWS & VIEWS

## A RATED ALL TVUSD SCHOOLS REACH GOAL

### RAI MAKES DIFFERENCE

The continued training is the result of a concerted effort to improve experiences for all students.

### NEW BOARD MEMBERS WELCOMED

Beth Peterson and Tom Trask will officially join the TVUSD Governing Board in January 2023.

### BIG YEAR WITH BIG OUTCOMES

Superintendent Hagerman shares some of the accomplishments that have been achieved.



## FULL STEAM AHEAD

TVUSD takes aim at  
Science, Technology,  
Engineering, Arts,  
and Mathematics

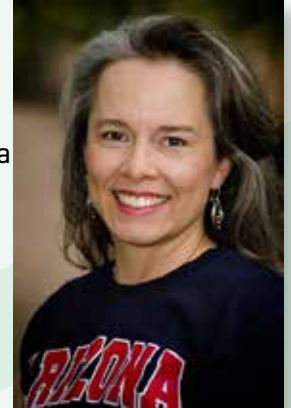
# A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! This is a perfect time to reflect on the past and to look forward.

Major construction is complete, and we can now enjoy the new and revitalized outdoor learning spaces and additional classrooms. Many of these spaces will be utilized to provide STEAM experiences. Additionally, TVHS precision manufacturing students built a barn and corral that will be used by agriculture students and new livestock.

In the past year, the efforts of our site leaders, teachers, staff, and students have been quantified and recognized.

- Our ELA and math scores made gains, even through the pandemic.
- All our schools received A's this year, making us a straight A district! Sites celebrated this news with the help of parents and neighbors, and the news was shared by local media on various platforms.
- Various education researchers have inquired about the processes that led to these outcomes.



Many thanks to all that helped us reach these achievements! The Governing Board will continue to focus on student growth and achievement in ELA and math.

Speaking of the Governing Board...we recently thanked two board members, Susan Fry and Vieri Tenuta, for their years of service as they stepped away from the governing board to pursue other volunteer endeavors. I have it on good authority they will continue to support TVUSD, for this I am grateful.

Which means we welcomed two new board members - Beth Peterson and Tom Trask. Both have dived into learn more about our district as well as their roles and responsibilities by meeting with site leaders, taking site tours, and completing new board member training. I am looking forward to working and serving with them on our "new" Governing Board.

While the facilities major construction may be complete, the work of providing a quality education continues. I'm excited by what the next year will bring.

President Anne Velosa  
Tanque Verde Unified School District

## NERDY DERBY RETURNS

*On Saturday, February 18, 2023, the Tanque Verde Foundation's Nerdy Derby makes its long-awaited return, featuring a no-rules Pinewood Derby (unique Gravity and Propulsion tracks), rocketry, remote control air show, STEM activities, kid zone, beverages and food for purchase, and more.*

*This year's event will be held at the Tucson Remote Control Club airstrip, located at 10801 E. Valencia Rd, just east of Houghton. All proceeds from the Nerdy Derby will provide funding for faculty requests to help deliver our students the highest quality educational experience.*

*Sponsorships are still available at [www.tanqueverde.org](http://www.tanqueverde.org).*

## BEAUTIFUL IMPACT

Students from Tanque Verde High School recently organized their City Beautification Club, led by TVHS Senior, Brett Lewis, to restore and enhance the beloved courtyard at the Lew Sorensen Adult Community Programs building, located next to Emily Gray Jr. High School on Tanque Verde Loop Rd. The courtyard was in need of some thoughtful restoration, following the completion of construction on the new Fine and Performing Arts building at EGJH. Lewis planned and procured bird and butterfly friendly plants. With the acquisition and installation of these plants, the hope is that the courtyard will be able to continue in its role as a Certified Monarch Habitat.

All adult education classes are listed on the district website under community adult leisure classes. Winter classes begin in January. The next session will be offered in March/April 2023. Please visit the website for more information: [www.tanqueverdeschools.org/adultleisureclasses](http://www.tanqueverdeschools.org/adultleisureclasses).



## SUPERINTENDENT SCOTT HAGERMAN UPDATE

# SUCCESS AND MOVING FORWARD

Each year, the Board and I update the Board Goals to ensure we continue to work on the District Vision that all students in our district will achieve academic and personal success in an ever-changing world. We achieve this vision through “effective communication, collaboration, school partnerships, and state-of-the-art facilities.”

The Board Goals are broken up into five areas: Student Achievement, Fiscal responsibility, High-Quality Professionals, School Culture, and Community Engagement. We use these goals to ensure continued progress for our students and staff members.

I am pleased to share some of the accomplishments that have been achieved toward the 2022-23 Board Goals this year, including the following:



## Student Achievement

- Using a professional learning community process (PLC) for several years now, we have seen quantifiable results in increasing student achievement.
- All schools are A schools.
- Education Recovery Scorecard (Harvard) - TVUSD was one of only six districts statewide which experienced gains in both reading and math through the pandemic, while nationally, many districts experienced significant learning losses.

## Fiscal Responsibility

- New construction has been completed at all schools, with the majority of funding coming from the state (over 75% of the funding is from the state). These facilities provide opportunities for students and staff to learn in new, state of the art facilities
- Building Renewal Projects (funded by the State of Arizona) have improved learning environments in the existing school buildings.

## High-Quality Professionals

- TVUSD Salary Increases - Since 2017, salaries increased by 34% for certified teachers and an average of 30% for all staff.

## School Culture

- R.A.I. - Working with Mr. Jimmy Hart, the district has deepened our focus on relationships that ensure respect, affirmation and inclusion.
- School Safety -
  - Through the recent construction projects, we have been able to increase campus security by strategically locating new buildings, fencing and lighting.
  - Southern Arizona School Safety Preparedness Consortium

## Community Engagement

- Faith-Based Collaboration - Now in its fifth year, the TVFBCC includes 12 area churches and over 35 faith and school leaders.
- Rincon Rotary Club - The continuing collaboration provides leadership opportunities on the Vision Committee, and numerous grant opportunities for our schools through Rotary Local.
- Scott Hagerman - State Board of Education
- Emma Batty - U of A Professional Practice Board
- Amy Cislak - Flinn Brown Fellowship
- Pima County Schools Collaborative

More detailed information on the 2022-23 Board Goals may be found at [www.tanqueverdeschools.org/visionmissiongoals](http://www.tanqueverdeschools.org/visionmissiongoals).

As we continue our work in the second half of the school year, we look forward to collaborating with our staff, families and community members to pave the way for continued success for our students, present and future!



# BUILDING STEAM IN TANQUE VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOLS



Ms. Sara Stein works with students in the ACES Outdoor STEAM Learning Lab.

## By Sara Stein

STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics...but it means much more than those stand-alone words.

This year, the Tanque Verde Unified School District created two designated and certified STEAM teaching positions at both Tanque Verde Elementary School and Agua Caliente Elementary School. And great things are happening already!

STEAM teachers, Lisa Nielsen and Sara Stein, are designing, building, and creating a unique curriculum to guide student inquiry and hone critical thinking and communication skills among our K-6 students. In this first year, the goal is to build a STEAM culture

across our classrooms. TVUSD teachers started with the creation of core values such as Teamwork, Perseverance, Inclusivity, Curiosity, Creativity, and Problem Solving. These values set the foundation and tone for this brand new program which supports teachers and students across curriculums such as Science, Mathematics, and Language Arts.

The STEAM labs at both sites are buzzing with excitement and energy as students learn the design engineering process and work toward solving real world problems through building and creating. Students work collaboratively and enthusiastically to complete the task at hand.

STEAM teachers work with the classroom, as well as other specialist teachers, to support their science instruction and use the Arizona State Science Standards as a guide and jumping off point to bring in the engineering, technology, math, and art components to their units.

Whether students are building salt-to-fresh water machines, seismographs, or learning early coding strategies, a love of learning is being instilled. Whether students are designing rain catchment systems for the outdoor nature trail classroom, raising mealworms to study the life cycle of an animal, or setting up worm bins to learn about the importance of decomposers in our

ecosystems, curiosity abounds.

The new STEAM program provides an incredible opportunity for students to take risks, experience struggle and try again, work in groups, and form creative thinking skills essential for the future. The foundation for a different kind of learning mindset is being established, and a new culture is being built around STEM learning.

These real world skills will carry our elementary students successfully into their middle and high school years. In fact, the lessons learned in STEAM today will prepare students for life, with an increased confidence and sense of connection to the world.



A ribbon cutting for the new barn and large animal facility at TVHS.



Ms. Lisa Nielsen works with students in the TVES STEAM Science Lab.



Mr. Bal demonstrates agricultural practices.

# STEAM ADVANCES TO SECONDARY PROGRAMS

Classes available in Digital Photography, Film & TV Production, Marketing, Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation, Stagecraft, Software Application and Design, Mechanical Drafting, Precision Manufacturing

Emily Gray Junior High School students continue the inquiry process learned through the K-6 STEAM program, through courses in Interactive Science, STEAM, and an elective course in Computer Science. Engaging in hands-on activities, projects and labs in a challenging learning environment, students pursue project based studies. Their outstanding achievement at SARSEF garnered the Top Middle School Award for the past three consecutive years.

The new EGJH computer science elective introduces students to the fundamental applications of computer programming, programming languages and coding, preparing them for further development of these skills in the high school CTE Information Technology courses.

TVUSD is a member of the Pima County Joint Technological District (JTED). In conjunction with business and industry, JTED provides career and technical education programs for students that focus upon

both the educational and employment needs of Pima County. JTED courses provide access to state-of-the-art equipment and training programs in a variety of career pathways, offer articulated college-level credit (applicable courses only), offer the opportunity for industry certifications, and the opportunity to work at an advanced level in a variety of career areas. Students benefit from career exploration in Digital Photography, Film & TV Production, Marketing, Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation, Stagecraft, Software Application and Design, Mechanical Drafting, Precision Manufacturing and Agriscience.

The new TVHS Agriscience and Precision Manufacturing teacher, Mr. Craig Bal, and his students recently completed the installation of a new barn and large animal facility on campus with the support of several community partners and over \$800,000 in grants received by the school over the past three years.



# HOW IS RAI MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

Work began last summer as TVUSD administrators held training on RAI and how the work can support their ongoing efforts on each campus.

All of the team members at Tanque Verde High School file into an auditorium for a monthly meeting. Teachers, janitors, administration, front office staff, counselors, and more are all here for one purpose - reinforcing respect, affirmation, and inclusion (RAI) for all students and participants in their school community. An asset based approach and safe space, the team works to enhance the openness of their community.

Teams across the Tanque Verde Unified School District (TVUSD) continue to work in adopting (RAI) practices that prioritize inclusivity for students, family, and staff while advancing student growth. The continued training is the result of a concerted effort to improve experiences for all students.

"Focusing on creating a space where students are respected, affirmed and included on campus has allowed Tanque Verde High School students and staff to flourish," said Tanque Verde High School Principal Amy Cislak. "It is important for our community to know and understand that they are seen, heard and valued members of our community,"

Following a comprehensive search by TVUSD leadership with parent, community, and school participation, Jimmy Hart was selected as a consultant to assist the district and all school sites in enacting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work to foster inclusive learning environments. As a result, each school site has had foundational training on RAI along with monthly professional development on the essential skills highlighted in the Eight Habits of Highly Effective Teachers include adapting, being visionary, collaborating,

taking risks, learning, communicating, modeling behavior, and leading - all essential skills for 21st Century learners.

"The work that Mr. Hart has led, has both further reinforced the ongoing initiatives in which our schools have been engaged (Capturing Kids Hearts and Ben's Bells Kind Schools), and has also given us a framework to deepen our focus on relationships that ensure respect, affirmation and inclusion," stated Dr. Scott Hagerman.

This grounding resource for leadership training has been used in Harvard University's principal leadership program and shared as a foundational practice of the United States Supreme Court by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to allow open communication amongst diverse groups in low risk environments for participation.

"Our goal is to strengthen our school communities," says Jimmy Hart, TVUSD's consultant. "We approach this work by enhancing positive assets that are already in place."

Work began last summer as TVUSD administrators held training on RAI and how the work can support their ongoing efforts on each campus. Establishing this process for leadership, TVUSD continued to roll out the program with new teacher orientations, school level trainings, and have held two community focused meetings on two Saturdays in October.

"So far, we have been out to share this work with the community at large," says Hart. "We are so fortunate to share this approach with the Rincon Rotary and our local faith-based community."





# WELCOME TO THE GOVERNING BOARD

Beth Peterson and Tom Trask will officially join the TVUSD Governing Board in January 2023, to start their four year terms in service to our community through December 31, 2026.

We have asked both to share their experience and what they think about their upcoming public service.

## BETH PETERSON

My family has lived in the Tanque Verde Valley for over two decades. Like many, we moved to the district in order for our son and his future sibling to get an excellent education. I am a long-time Tucson resident and a proud Wildcat with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the UofA. My husband is a native Tucsonan and grew up in the area. As a new TVUSD Governing Board member, I look forward to serving the Tanque Verde community, understanding the needs of our district, and contributing to positive educational outcomes for our students. As a software engineer and technical leader for an American multinational technology company, I understand the importance of education. Access to technology

and modern education builds the workforce of tomorrow, attracts high-wage jobs, and creates economic opportunities!

## TOM TRASK

I am a retired United States Air Force (USAF) officer, with leadership and command experience across a variety of business sectors, including education, operations, executive corporate leadership, and program administration. I earned a bachelor's degree from Arizona State in Tempe, AZ, and a master's degree from National University in La Jolla, CA, and consider myself a life-long learner. I was also an experienced public school educator, licensed at both elementary and secondary education levels. I am passionate about making sure students are receiving the correct curriculum, tailored to the correct learning-level, and presented in a flexible manner that meets the needs of each student's particular learning style. As a father of two young children, I understand the concerns of parents and their desire to ensure their students are taught in a safe environment - physically, emotionally, and philosophically safe.

**TVUSD  
PATHWAYS  
TO SUCCESS**

TVUSD will be the premier choice for K-12 education. Our students will achieve academic and personal success in an ever-changing world.

**GRADES PREK-6**

Building a foundation of skills and knowledge to inspire lifelong learning and future success.

**GRADES 7-8**

Exploring varied career and educational pathways to identify interests and opportunities.

**GRADES 9-12**

Identifying career and college pathways with four-year plans aligned to student interests, ambitions and aptitudes.

**COLLEGE & CAREER READY!**

Preparing students with superior resources and instruction to be competitive and successful in a changing world.

TVUSD will ensure effective communication, collaboration, school partnerships and state of the art facilities that support our vision for students as well as benefit all constituents. Our balanced budget ensures continuity of programs and empowers growth.

TANQUE VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
[www.tanqueverdeschools.org](http://www.tanqueverdeschools.org)

WE'RE HIRING FOR  
SY 2023-24!

#TVUSDPathwaysToSuccess

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